

means for providing the user with the option of designating favorite channels;

means for designating a preferred media type which reflects the user's interests, independent of the means for providing the user with the option of designating favorite channels; and

means for providing the user with the option of channel selection constrained to a subset of channels consisting of the favorite channels of the preferred media type, the subset produced by filtering the channels using the favorite channels and the preferred media type as selection criteria to produce the subset of the channels.

3. (Amended) The interactive program guide system defined in claim 1, wherein the means for designating the preferred media type comprises means for designating the preferred media type as the media type associated with a program guide feature selected by the [a] user.

11. (Amended) A system comprising:  
multi-media equipment that receives a plurality of channels, wherein each channel carries primarily one of a plurality of media types;

a user control device with which the user issues a command when it is desired to access a channel; and

an interactive program guide configured to receive information on the media types that are associated with each of

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the channels, to provide the user with the option of designating favorite channels; to designate a preferred media type corresponding to the media type of channel to which the tuner is tuned independent of the option of designating favorite channels; and to provide the user with the option of channel selection constrained to a subset of channels consisting of the favorite channels of the preferred media type, the subset of channels produced by filtering the channels using the favorite channels and preferred media type as selection criteria.

19. (Amended) A method for accessing channels in an interactive program guide system implemented on user multi-media equipment of a user for displaying programming on a plurality of user-selectable channels on the user equipment, wherein each channel carries primarily ~~one~~ of a plurality of media types, the method comprising:

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supplying information on the media types that are associated with each of the channels;

providing the user with the option of designating of favorite channels;

designating a preferred media type which reflects the user's interests independently of providing the user with the option of designating favorite channels;

filtering the channels by using the favorite channels and the preferred media type as selection criteria to produce a subset of the channels consisting of favorite channels of the preferred media type; and

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providing the user with the option of selecting channels such that channel selection is constrained to the subset of channels consisting of favorite channels of the preferred media type.

28. (Amended) A method for accessing channels in an interface implemented on user multi-media equipment of a user for displaying programming on a plurality of user-selectable channels on the user equipment, wherein each channel carries primarily one of a plurality of media types, the method comprising:

identifying the media types that are associated with each of the channels;

identifying user-designated favorite channels;

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designating a preferred media type which reflects the user's interests independently of identifying user-designated favorite channels;

filtering the channels by using the favorite channels and the preferred media type as selection criteria to produce a subset of the channels consisting of favorite channels of the preferred media type; and

providing the user with the option of selecting channels such that channel selection is constrained to the subset of channels consisting of favorite channels of the preferred media type.